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Nota di contenuto	Acknowledgments -- List of tables and figures -- List of abbreviations -- Introduction: polysemy, heterogeneity and ambiguity in word-formation patterns -- Phonological, syntactic and semantic constraints on the formation of -ee words -- The career of -ee words: a diachronic analysis from medieval legal use to nineteenth-century ironic nonce words -- Morphology and the lexicon: on creativity and productivity of -ee words -- A corpus-based analysis of 1,000 potential new -ee words -- -ee words in varieties of English.
Sommario/riassunto	Postulated word-formation rules often exclude formations that can nevertheless be found in actual usage. This book presents an in-depth investigation of a highly heterogeneous word-formation pattern in English: the formation of nouns by suffixation with -ee. Rather than relying on a single semantic or syntactic framework for analysis, the study combines diachronic, cognitive and language-contact perspectives in order to explain the diversity in the formation and establishment of -ee words. It also seeks to challenge previous measurements of productivity and proposes a new way to investigate

the relationship between actual and possible words. By making use of the largest and most up-to-date electronic corpus - the World Wide Web - as a data source, this research adds substantially to the number of attested -ee words. It furthermore analyses this word-formation pattern in different varieties of English (British vs. American English; Australian English). Due to the multiplicity of approaches and analyses it offers, the study is suitable for courses in English word-formation, lexicology, corpus linguistics and historical linguistics.
